

### S. 1716 – U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007

#### **Floor Situation**

S. 1716 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Senator John Thune (R-SD) on June 27, 2007. The bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent on July 25, 2007.

S. 1716 is scheduled to be considered on the floor on July 30, 2007.

#### **Summary**

S. 1716 strikes section 9012 of the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (PL 110-28).

#### **Background**

The U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 passed the House of Representatives on May 24, 2007, by a recorded vote of 348 - 73 (Roll no. 424).

H.R. 2206 included disaster assistance for farmers and ranchers. However, many livestock producers will likely be ineligible for assistance due to an unintended technicality. Congress intended disaster assistance to be available to those producers most impacted by years of devastating weather conditions. This assistance includes livestock producer eligibility for Livestock Indemnity Payments and Livestock Compensation Program without participation in the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance program, NAP, or Federal crop insurance pilot program as a prerequisite.

The Department of Agriculture will interpret section 9012 of Public Law 110-28 as Congress intending that all livestock producers must have NAP or pilot crop insurance coverage in order to be eligible for disaster payments. If disaster benefits are limited to only those livestock producers with NAP or crop insurance coverage, the vast majority of livestock producers in drought-stricken regions will be ineligible for disaster assistance.

## Cost

The Congressional Budget Office has not scored this legislation.

# **Staff Contact**

For questions or further information contact Chris Vieson at (202) 226-2302.